

## Minutes of ManCom meeting held on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> January (6.00pm) at North Duffield

Attended by PJ, JoN, JiN RH, AJ, RG, BS. Guest Ian Battersby

(1) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – None

(2) MINUTES OF LAST MANCOM MEETING (11/9/14) – were signed by PJ as a correct record.

(3) MATTERS ARISING

a) Report from Disciplinary Sub-Committee (already circulated to ManCom on November 4<sup>th</sup>) PJ welcomed IB, thanked him for attending and thanked the whole sub-committee (Ian Battersby, Keith Tingay and Gill Fletcher) for their work in producing their report. IB introduced the report by re-iterating the 'framework' that the committee had used to underpin their discussions. This laid down the principles of fairness, speed and impartiality when complaints are dealt with and the right of appeal. There followed comprehensive discussion of some of the details contained in the report with all present able to ask questions. The feeling of those present was broadly to accept the recommendations made.

The Secretary had already prepared a draft proposal of changes to our Constitution and Discipline Procedures document using much of the wording contained within the report and promised that IB would be sent copies of these for his comments once they had been finalised. They would then be presented to the AGM for ratification. (At this point IB left the meeting).

The aforesaid proposed changes were then discussed and several modifications agreed. The Chairman asked RG to prepare a revised draft and circulate for comments. **Action - RG**

b) Extra Committee positions: The idea of expanding the committee size to include persons (without portfolio) to assist in the running of the Association had been raised in committee last year. After further discussion it was agreed this could have some benefit in involving interested people in the work of the elected Officers without taking on the full responsibilities of office. The format of changes to the Constitution that would be required to make this possible was then discussed. **Action - RG to word changes for the AGM**

There were no other matters raised arising from the previous meeting.

(4) COMPETITIONS

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS 2014/15: The Chairman thanked all committee members for the work they had put in to make the Championships possible in the absence of a Competition Secretary. She felt that all had gone well apart from one 'hiccup' in the Triples. The sharing of tasks had worked out well although inevitably some had had little to do whilst others had more. She thanked RG in particular who had shouldered most of the burden. RG in summarising events thanked Richard Goode (BSA) who had made a valuable and competent contribution over the two Swinton weekends and RH for her help in preparing the 300 scorecards required and setting up at the beginning of each day. He also thanked JiN for preparing the official entry forms for the 151 Nationals entrants.

a) **Singles (41 entries)**: 2 had dropped out and 1 had joined in to reduce the numbers to 40. The draw was then re-organised to eliminate the odd group of 5 and to use 10 mats instead of 11.

After a further last minute drop-out John Sleightholme (BSA) kindly stood in so nobody had a reduced number of games.

- b) **Pairs (32 entries):** One Pair had failed to turn up and BSA had provided 2 stand-ins at very short notice.
- c) **Triples (28 entries):** 3 National entrants had been substituted. One of the Triples who qualified for the last 16 KO stage had left early and their place was given to the “next best” Triple. However this produced a complaint from the Triple who were placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in this group who felt they should have qualified as “next in line”. This necessitated an impromptu ManCom meeting to resolve the matter which delayed the competition by 30 minutes. (See also (i) below)
- d) **Fours (17 entries):** Had over-run by 1 hour but no other problems.
- e) **Mixed Fours (17 entries):** No problems
- f) **U18 Singles (7 entries):** See 9 Juniors below.
- g) **Overall:** Total entries were down by 45 to 335 (reducing income by £225) and Nationals entries were down by 39 to 151 (resulting in 4 fewer places in the Finals). In spite of this the raffle receipts were a new record and the costs of the “quirky” keepsakes were also down. However increases in both the hall hire charges and the payments made to umpires/helpers meant that the overall “profit” was about £300 down from last year (but still over £600)
- h) **Venues:** Reports had been received from several entrants that they would not enter again due to the coldness of the Swinton venue. Several players had also been taken ill and this may have been attributable to the gas blower heaters that were in use. After discussion it was agreed to seriously consider moving 2 of the 4 Swinton Championships to Easingwold for next season. BS pointed out that this may involve increased cost and the question of venue preparation and catering was also raised. This possibility will be put to the AGM. **Action - AJ to check for Galtres availability for a complete weekend.**
- i) **Standards:** There had been no documented solution to the problem encountered in the Triples (see (c) above). RG had therefore put forward a new policy document containing a set of standards to be followed for the competitions including any repetition of this particular circumstance. It was agreed that the correct action should have been to give the team that was available a ‘bye’ without involving any alternative team. The new document was approved and would be added to the Policy Register. **Action - RG**

**LITTLE CUP:** After a brief discussion it was decided that as none present was prepared to organise this competition, it would be cancelled this year. **Action - AJ to cancel Galtres booking**

## **(5) TEAMS**

- a) **Premier (RH):** The team will be playing Dorset in the Consolation KO Cup quarter final on Feb 15 and RH was hopeful of a good result in this after all 4 group games had been lost. Next year, due to an ESMBA reorganisation the team has been moved into the ‘A’ division and would again have only 4 matches (against Stockport and Cheshire). However, there would be 2 additional ICC KO competitions, one for “double rinks” and one for “pairs/triples”. A questionnaire had been sent out to all premier team players pointing out these changes and asking for their opinions and also their interest in the two new competitions. She was disappointed that only two replies had been received. (A slight interruption here due to the appearance of a birthday cake with candle to celebrate the Chairman’s birthday). RH confirmed that the forms and fees had been sent off to the ESMBA for the 2015/16 ICC.
- b) **A team (AJ):** The question of a Derbyshire player delivering woods from waist height resulting in several heavy bounces was discussed. AJ considered this was causing damage to their mats and he was concerned about this happening on their visit to us. He was advised to speak

with Graham Fish about his concerns and RG would ask the ESMBA where we stood if we requested the player not be selected for their visit to us. **Action - AJ and RG**

- c) **B team (PJ):** The fact that Durham had insisted on a charge of £7 per head for the meal they provided was discussed. It was agreed this was “over the top” and that maybe they were getting muddled up with the charges agreed for their matches against the White Rose league during the summer. Secretary will write to Durham SMBA saying we felt this was unreasonable and requesting a partial rebate. **Action - RG**
- d) **Practice Day:** AJ had booked the Galtres for September 12 for team practice day. RH/JN stated that this would probably not involve the Premier team players due to poor attendance over the last 2 years. It was suggested that maybe practice day should be more of a general “trials day” at which any players can attend to register their interest in county play? JiN would also like to see all our junior players invited to attend to encourage their interest.
- e) **Selection:** There was a long discussion regarding the best way to pick our county teams. Once again the opinion was raised that at the moment the 3 teams seemed to be considered as “mini clubs” both by players and captains. Should we not adopt a new selection process whereby ALL players were considered not as A, B or Premier players but as NYSMBA county players? Could not a selection committee of (for example) the 3 captains get together regularly to collectively pick all 3 teams for the next few fixtures from this pool? This idea would require a letter to be sent to all existing county players with the dates of ALL county fixture and asking for their availability across ALL teams. This way everyone would have the opportunity to opt in or out of the teams. Lack of time prevented further discussion of this topic but the Chairman said we should reconsider our Selection Policy at our next ManCom meeting. **Action - C/F**

## **(6) MEMBERSHIP (RG)**

- a) **Summary** – BS had assisted by receiving and checking the amounts paid then passing all forms to RG so that the database could be updated. To date we had 44 clubs with 873 members compared with last year’s total of 42 clubs with 890 members. This is only a small reduction but is disappointing in the light of the 33 members brought in by new clubs Bempton (22) and Hushwaite (11). Barn had stayed with us with 5 members (the minimum) – down from 27 last year. This was due to them dropping out of the Scarborough league and concentrating exclusively on social bowling. There had been 142 joiners (110 new) but 159 leavers.
- b) **Documentation** – Changes to the format of the Membership Database had been made to introduce indicators for dual members, new members, lapsed members, re-joining members and members transferring between clubs. This assists in providing the ESMBA with the information they require. The membership summary form (that was contained within the database) has been removed and made into a separate enlarged form. RG will amend the policy register. **Action - RG**
- c) **Constitution change** – A proposal to make changes to Section 3 (Membership) was discussed and approved. This will be sent to all clubs for consideration at the AGM.  
**Action - RG**

**(7) FINANCES (BS)** - Current balance was £7940. Premier team finances were slightly in the red but there was the income from the forthcoming KO match yet to come in. ESMBA insurance is being renewed at the same rate. A cheque had been received from Easingwold SMBC for £10 for using a county mat in their open Triples. This should be returned as we had already made the decision that we would not charge clubs for borrowing our equipment. **Action - BS**

## **(8) PWA (RG)**

- a) **Handbooks** - 350 were printed using colour (on the front page) for the first time which cost an extra £35. 60 pages - an increase of 4 over previous year. Distribution was late due to problems at printers. Only 5 clubs had to be posted – rest distributed manually. No entries received so far for this year's puzzle.
- b) **Website** – Less effort had been spent in reporting this year (e.g. no county match reports)
- c) **Archives** – RG will attempt to start going through all folders to dispose of “rubbish” and retain only key historical documents. This would be very time consuming.

**(9) JUNIORS (JIN)** Jill had organised the Junior U18 Singles Championship. As there were only 7 entrants, she had “press ganged 3 additional players, ensuring a better format and giving all entrants a good days bowling. There were only 5 Nationals entries this year and because the ESMBA had doubled the size of the Finals (32 to 64) all our 5 had been granted a place although one unfortunately will be unable to take up his place. She had in her school established contact with the “Schools Partnership” who had featured Short Mat as “Sport of the Month” and she was hopeful this may expand to include regular involvement with North Duffield SMBC.

## **(10) ESMBA**

- a) Rule books had eventually been received by all clubs direct from the ESMBA. This had been done on the basis of one book per member (based on the 2013/14 membership totals). It was known that some clubs had only issued a single book to married couples and so retained spare copies for new members. RG had requested and received a stock of 50 spare copies. These would be issued to any club on request for new members.
- b) ESMBA membership cards had still not been received in spite of promises made weeks ago that they were imminent. **(Since received by RG on Feb 5)**
- c) The new ESMBA mailbox had not worked fully at first (e.g. unable to reply or compose) but after several emails/calls to Keith Hawkins and Toolbox, RG was advised to install and use a different browser (Firefox). All now OK.
- d) RG felt that the new ESMBA Administration has not seen any significant improvements in communications as emails were still being ignored. Our stated reservations that the set up was “too many eggs in one basket” seemed to be true. He had the impression that KH was overloaded.

**(11) NESMBA** - ManCom had already been circulated with details of the various issues that had arisen over the last few months. These included the resignation of the Secretary (Keith Worrell) and the consultation of all counties with regards to moving the Championships from Barnard Castle to Church Gresley in 2016 and the wording of local rules for this year's Finals. The ESMBA mats for this year will be collected by David Rutt with loading/unloading help provided by Derbyshire and/or Staffordshire. There had also been a dispute over a fixture cancellation between West Yorkshire and Staffordshire and the ruling on this had not pleased West Yorkshire. JoN mentioned that their captain (Stephen Packer) had recently resigned over an unrelated issue.

## **(12) OTHER BUSINESS**

- a) **2015/16 diary** - AJ had issued the dates for the Yorkshire (North) League back in September. The wisdom of doing this so early was questioned. In subsequent discussion he revealed he had also moved one of the County Championship weekends to make way for one of the YNL

dates. However it was pointed out that this clashed with an England weekend so would have to be changed. It was requested that, as their Chairman, AJ should encourage this league to show a lot more flexibility than had been the case in the past. County competitions should always have priority and if occasionally YNL fixtures have to be played on consecutive weekends or moved to Saturdays that should not be considered a problem. It was felt that the county diary should not revolve around the preferences of one league. With regards to arrangements for County matches, the idea of scheduling 2 home county games on the same day should not be ruled out if this freed up another Sunday. RH was happy to use the far end of the hall for Premier home games if required.

- b) Officers for 2015/16:** All present expressed their willingness to re-stand and PJ was willing to put herself forward to fill the B team captain vacancy. However club members should NOT see this as preventing anyone else from also standing. The names of proposers and seconders should be passed to RG by the end of March.
- c) Reports:** All annual reports to be with RG by early April so they can be sent out to all clubs in advance with the AGM agenda. This will shorten the length of the AGM as there will be no need to read out the reports on the night. **Action - All ManCom**
- d) Speaker systems:** These had been little used and were now considered surplus to requirements. BS said their capital value had been written off so it was suggested that they could be given away to a worthwhile charity or sold for a nominal sum.
- e) Next meeting:** RG to canvas all for available dates in the 2 weeks prior to the AGM.  
**Action – RG**
- f) Substitute for Barnard Castle:** AJ had reported that a member of his Triple could not attend the Northern Finals due to holidays and he had requested a substitution. RG had already refused this as the “Substitution Policy” agreed by ManCom last year did not list “holidays” as a valid reason. However AJ had requested further consideration of his request by the full ManCom as he felt that in this case there were special circumstances. He argued that although this player had informed him prior to the heats that he was going on holiday shortly after, he had assumed that it would be for the “usual” 2 weeks. He had not been made aware by the player that it was a 7 weeks holiday and he would not be back by March 15<sup>th</sup>. After protracted discussion the committee remained split about allowing an exception but finally the Chairman ruled that a substitution should be allowed. It was agreed to make an addition to the Substitution Policy making it clear that it is the skips responsibility to ascertain the availability of their team members in the event of qualification. **Action - RG**

The meeting ended at 10.30hrs.

RG 8.2.15